

The message today to the Bloods, the Crips, to every criminal gang preying on the innocent is clear: We mean to put you out of business, to break the backs of your organization, to stop you from terrorizing our neighborhoods and our children, to put you away for a very long time. We have just begun the job, and we do not intend to stop until we have finished.

Let me say again, this legislation I offer today has been developed with help from law enforcement. It is like the crime bill of 1994, straightforward, commonsense, there are no hidden meanings, there are no poison pills. It relies on partnerships with communities and citizens. And I hope Congress will join us in a bipartisan commitment to save our neighborhoods, our families, and our children from the threat of gangs and gang violence.

This again is something we should be able to do, even this year, in a genuine spirit of bipartisanship, because we know it will work, and we know it will make a profound difference.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:56 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

**Executive Order 13002—  
Termination of Combat Zone  
Designation in Vietnam and Waters  
Adjacent Thereto**

*May 13, 1996*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 112(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 112(c)(3)), June 30, 1996, as of midnight thereof, is hereby designated as the date of termination of combatant activities in the zone comprised of the area described in Executive Order No. 11216 of April 24, 1965.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
May 13, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 15, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 16.

**Proclamation 6894—Older  
Americans Month, 1996**

*May 13, 1996*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

America's high standard of living, advanced health care system, and commitment to better nutrition and physical fitness have allowed millions of our citizens the luxury of long and fulfilling lives. Because current estimates indicate that one in six Americans will be 65 or older by the year 2020, our Nation faces new challenges as we seek to address the needs of this growing population of seniors.

Fortunately, many of our older Americans—who have already led the way in setting a sound course for our country's future—are helping us to meet these new challenges as well. Having lived through times of depression and war, peace and prosperity, they have shaped our progress with their achievements. The safety net they created—including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the provisions of the Older Americans Act—helps us to honor our debt to senior citizens and ensures that Americans who have worked hard throughout their lives can look forward to a secure retirement.

Each year, we set aside the month of May as a special time to pay tribute to older Americans and to affirm our obligation to sustain and improve their quality of life. The theme of this year's observance, "Aging: A Lifetime Opportunity," underscores the gifts that older people offer to our country every day. Thanks to senior citizens, our communities are stronger, our Nation is more diverse, and we are better prepared to meet the challenges of the next century.

As we celebrate the contributions of all those in their golden years, let us recognize that long life is a gift we must cherish and a responsibility for which we must prepare. With an eye toward the future and with the example of today's seniors firmly before us,

we can prepare for a better tomorrow for ourselves and for the generations of Americans to come.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 1996, as Older Americans Month. I call upon Government officials, businesses, communities, volunteers, educators, and all the people of the United States to acknowledge the contributions made by older Americans this month and throughout the year.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:54 a.m., May 14, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 15.

### **Proclamation 6895—Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 1996**

*May 13, 1996*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Despite the dangers they face while patrolling our Nation's cities, neighborhoods, and highways, America's law enforcement officers continue to serve with commitment and distinction every day. They put themselves in harm's way to safeguard our fellow citizens, and their dedication to the rule of law is essential to maintaining a just and orderly society. Each year, Police Week is a welcome opportunity to recognize the brave men and women of the law enforcement professions, and on Peace Officers Memorial Day we pause to honor those who have given their lives while protecting others.

According to recent figures, 161 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty during 1995. And let us not forget the law enforcement personnel who died in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19—the single deadliest day in law enforcement history. Since police deaths were first recorded in this country, in 1794, more than 14,000 officers have lost their lives working to keep the peace in our communities. On average, more than 66,000 are assaulted every year, and some 24,000 are injured.

To pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to voice our appreciation for all those who currently serve on the front lines of the battle against crime, the Congress, by joint resolution approved October 1, 1962 (76 Stat. 676), has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day," and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and by Public Law 103-322 (36 U.S.C. 175) has directed that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 1996, as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and May 12 through May 18, 1996, as Police Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe these occasions with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs. I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and all areas under its jurisdiction and control. In addition, I invite all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**